

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09750 192231Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03
INR-05 INRE-00 AF-04 SP-02 NSAE-00 IO-06 HA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 ICAE-00 /045 W
-----049179 192236Z /70

Z 192213Z MAY 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6653
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 09750

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG, FR, BE
SUBJECT: KOLWEZI OPERATION: BELGIAN CBAINET DECISION TO GO-AHEAD

REF: BRUSSELS 9745

1. WE REACHED DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET (ONKELINX) AT FOREIGN
MINISTRY 23:30 LOCAL. ONKELINX SAID CABINET HAS GIVEN POLITICAL
GREEN LIGHT TO GO IN TO KOLWEZI. THE COMMANDER OF THE BELGIAN
TASK FORCE IN KAMINA HAS BEEN DELEGATED POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS
ON TIMING AND CARRING OUT OF MILITARY ACTIONS. HE SAID BELGIANS MAY
GO TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING, DEPENDING SITUATION AT THE KOLWEZI
AIRPORT.

2. ONKELINX SAID FRENCH NOT IN EASY SITUATION. MEETING RESISTANCE AND

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NOW
FIGHTING KATANGANS WHO ARE USING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. HE SAID THAT AS I
T IS
OBVIOUS THAT WILL BE EASY TO RESCUE PEOPLE, "WE WILL GO IN ALSO."

HE SAID FRENCH REPORTEDLY FOUND 44 EUROPEAN VICTIMS ON ARRIVAL, BUT N
OT

YET OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.

3. ONKELINX SAID REBELS TOOK HOSTGAGES WITH THEM AS THEY RETREATED. HE SAID HAVE NINE NAMES OF THOSE TAKEN, INCLUDING TWO FRENCH, ONE ITALIAN, AND SIX BELGIANS. HE STRESSES THAT THERE WERE NO AMERICAN NAMES.

4.ONKELINX SAID BELGIANS WOULD ENTER INTO CLOSE LIASON WITH FRENCH ON SPOT AND AGAIN STRESSED THAT BELGIAN COMMANDER NOW HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO MAKE MILITARY DECISIONS. AS FINAL COMMENT, HE SAID BELGIAN TROOPS WILL BE THERE SOON.

SECRET

NNN

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